

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL Library

SUBJECT **Current Situation in the Czech Army**

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED		25X1
-------------------	--	------

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO	25X1
--------------	------

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED, HOWEVER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

25X1 1. There is no indication as yet that the purge of Army officers will be moderated in the near future, and no plans for replacing the dismissed officers have been made. [redacted] one Army corps will be dissolved and its officer personnel used to fill in the gaps in the remaining units. Because of these large-scale dismissals, the bad morale of both officers and enlisted men, the divergency of Russian, British, and German equipment which the army uses, and the difficulty of replacement and supply for this equipment, the Czech army at present would be unable to engage in any type of operation other than border control and police services [redacted]

2. It is generally believed among General Staff officers that Russian troops would occupy Czechoslovakia in any time of emergency, but there is now no plan, and no orders have been issued to the various General Staff section heads to prepare a plan, for this eventuality. [redacted] the movement of Russian troops into Czechoslovakia would be carried out without prior coordination or planning with the Czech General Staff. As of May 21, there were no Russian troops or officers in Bohemia or Moravia, except for the office of the Russian Military Attache in Prague. There were no Russian officers attached to Czech units and those who were formerly assigned to military schools have been recalled.

Comment: [redacted] IVD personnel were implanted in SNB border control units. The Russian liaison office was dissolved at the same time as those of other missions and [redacted] it unlikely that substantial liaison with the Soviets is being carried on in secret at top levels.)

3. Shipments of arms from the Soviet Union, which might have been expected to follow the clause in the Czech-Soviet treaty providing for standardization of arms, have not been delivered. [redacted] the Russian attitude on this point is (a) the Czech army is not trustworthy or valuable enough to be provided with Russian equipment and (b) Czech industry should be capable of producing its own armaments. The fact that Czech industry is giving priority to non-military production in some cases, however, is demonstrated in an order of April 15 to the Central Munitions Depot in Prague to turn over a large percentage of its stored shell cases to industry for reuse in the manufacture of brass products.

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 13 October 1964 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the

~~SECRET~~

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

Class. CHARGED TO:

EPA 11-1-1

Auth: DDA 100 727

Date: 01/05/28

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. General maneuvers are now being held in the normal maneuver areas of Western Bohemia. A great deal of emphasis has been placed on getting all available troops and equipment into these maneuvers, including the recall of 1500 men previously on duty as border patrols and the use of all tanks, over the protests of tank commanders that several months would be required to put them back in operational shape after maneuvers were over. The reason for the emphasis is that present classes of conscripts have been used almost entirely in industry and agriculture and it was considered imperative that they be given at least minimum training in their combat units.
5. The 2nd Independent Mountain Brigade has been transferred from Slovakia to the Sumava area along the Amazon border. The reason for the move is to strengthen border control and is a part of a new general operational plan. This plan has not yet been issued to the section heads of the General Staff.
6. On April 19 and 20 two meetings of the officers of the General Staff were held during which Gen. Svoboda, Minister Nosek, Gen. Prochaska, and Colonel Reicin stressed the danger of foreign espionage and warned that all contacts by officers, social or otherwise, with persons of American or other western nationality must be reported immediately. The penalty for nonconformance with the order is suspension or dismissal from the service.
7. The overall strength of the army is approximately 110,000 men. No additional classes of conscripts have been called up in spite of rumors to that effect. In the general plan for mobilization, one division will still be the nucleus for the formation of two divisions.
8. A prototype of the 105 mm howitzer is the only piece of Czech artillery which is on a production basis. An improvement on the German panzerfaust, with an effective range of 200 meters, has been tested satisfactorily.
9. Prochaska of the Education and Enlightenment Bureau has been promoted to the rank of general.

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~